

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the remarks that follow.

In the February 26, 2004 Office Action in this application, the Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Parks '251 patent in further view of the Kume et al. '098 patent and the Shimada '181 patent. Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Parks '251 patent in further view of the Kume et al. '098 patent, the Shimada '181 patent and the Crawford et al. '063 patent.

As indicated above, claims 19-22 have been cancelled. New claims 23-28 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, it is believed that new claims 23-28 patentably distinguish over the cited references, whether considered individual or in combination.

Specifically, new independent claim 23 recites an apparatus that includes an array of pixel cells for a light valve that comprises an array of pixel cells arranged in a checkerboard pattern having a first set of squares that alternates with a second set of squares such that pixel cells in the first set of squares are diagonally adjacent pixel cells in the second set of squares. Diagonally adjacent pixel cells have a gap formed therebetween that includes a first edge defined by a pixel cell from the first set of squares and a second edge defined by a pixel cell from the second set of squares; the first and second edges are parallel. A dielectric spacer structure intervenes in the gaps between the first set of squares and the second set of squares. Further, as recited in new claim 19, the dielectric spacer structure is approximately 0.05 μ m thick. Support for this limitation is found in applicant's specification at page 13, lines 31-33.

Applicant's new independent claim 27 recites that the dielectric spacer structures have a lower portion and a curved upper portion. Support for this limitation is found in applicant's specification at page 16, lines 1-17. New claim 28, which depends from new claim 27, recites that the lower portion of the dielectric spacer structure is approximately 0.05 μ m thick.


Upon review of the Parks '251 patent, the Kume et al. '098 patent, the Shimada '181 patent and the Crawford et al. '063 patent, it is submitted that none of these references, considered individually or in combination, teach or suggest dielectric spacing between adjacent sets of pixel cells of approximately $0.05\mu\text{m}$ thickness. Furthermore, it is submitted that nothing in these references, whether considered individually or in combination, either teaches or suggests dielectric spacer structures having curved upper portions between adjacent sets of pixel cells.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that all claims currently pending in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that this amendment be entered and that the application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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